

**Ouvirandra fenestralis.**

In the January number of the BOTANICAL GAZETTE the fact is mentioned that it is very difficult to keep *Ouvirandra fenestralis* free from algæ. This seems to be the only real difficulty in cultivating this most interesting plant, and it may be of interest to your readers that it has been overcome in the Botanic Garden at Breslau (Germany) by putting some specimens of *Planorbis corneus* into the tank where that plant was growing. This snail cleans *Ouvirandra* thoroughly without injuring it. I do not know whether *Planorbis corneus* occurs in America, but any other species will probably do quite as well. English cultivators recommend keeping *Ouvirandra* in the shade to prevent the luxuriant growth of algæ on it. (cf. Regel's *Gartenflora*, 1886, pp 308 and 6-7).

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DR. S. SCHÖNLAND.

**Rendering herbarium specimens pliable.**

A year or more ago I received a package of plants from a botanical correspondent which, though otherwise very fine, were extremely brittle, and therefore liable to be injured by handling. It happily occurred to me to try whether perhaps glycerine would render the specimens more pliable and so to a portion of my poisoning mixture (the ordinary one of 1 oz. corrosive sublimate to a quart of methylic alcohol) I added glycerine in the proportion of 4 ozs. to the quart. On treating the plants with this solution they were very much improved and could be handled without danger of undue breakage. Since then I have used no other mixture, only I have gradually improved it until now my poisoning solution is made up as follows: Alcohol, 26 fl. oz.; corrosive sublimate, 1 oz.; mix and dissolve, then add 6 fl. oz. glycerine. Plants poisoned by this solution are not only well preserved, but are also much less liable to be damaged by frequent handling.

*Sharon, Pa.*

F. T. ASCHMAN.

**German and American Botanists.**

One is very soon impressed with the different standing of science in Germany and America, when he is here. I wish all our workers, and especially the young men, might come and learn something of the thoroughness, the patience and enthusiasm of the Germans. It would have a wonderful effect upon our future scientific development. The amount of original work done here is enormous. No professor of natural science is content with the mere teaching of his specialty, but strives to add something to the knowledge which he already has. Indeed, no man can long hold his place who does not do original work. The result is keen interest and competition, and a splendid scientific literature. I will not say our American scientists are at fault, because they do not do likewise, for they are overloaded with routine work, and have no time outside of college duties. They are not yet specialists, because few of our American institutions are yet broad enough to support a botanical or chemical faculty. But all this will come also in America in due time.

*Göttingen, Germany.*

WINTHROP E. STONE.